



Regular Meeting
12/14/2023 - 06:00 PM
District Office - Board Room
500 N. Walnut Street
La Habra, CA 90631

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA

5:00 p.m. - Closed Session

6:00 p.m. - Call to Order/Regular Meeting
(Meetings are recorded for use in official minutes)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Members of the audience may address the Board of Education on agenda items during consideration of that item and items not on the agenda that are within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Speaking time is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes per topic. Persons wishing to address the Board should complete and submit a Presentation Card, available on the table near the hallway door. The Presentation Card must be completed and given to the Secretary prior to the meeting. Matters not on the agenda may neither be acted upon nor discussed by the Board, but will be researched and responded to in any one of the following ways: 1) by telephone after research; 2) by mail after research; or 3) at a subsequent Board meeting as an agenda item.

MEETING CONDUCT:

Board Policy 1313: Civility

The Governing Board encourages all district employees to treat parents/guardians and other members of the public with respect and expect the same in return. The District is committed to maintaining orderly educational and administrative processes in keeping schools and administrative offices free from disruptions and preventing unauthorized persons from entering school/district grounds or facilities.

The Board promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct between and among District employees, parents and the public. It is not intended to deprive any person of his/her right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain, to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free workplace for students and staff. The District encourages positive communication and discourages volatile, hostile or aggressive actions. The District seeks public cooperation with this endeavor.

Any individual who disrupts or threatens to disrupt school/office operations; threatens the health and safety of students or staff; willfully causes property damage; uses loud and/or offensive language which could provoke a violent reaction; or who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on school district property, will be directed to leave the school or school district property promptly by the Superintendent or designee.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a Board meeting may request assistance by contacting the Superintendent's Office at 562-690-2300 or accommodations@lahabraschools.org at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

TOBACCO-FREE:

The La Habra City School District is a tobacco-free district. Tobacco use is prohibited on district property at all times.

Attendees

Voting Members

Ofelia Hanson, Board President
Emily Pruitt, Board Vice President
Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard, Board Member
Adam Rogers, Board Member
Justin Rodgers, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent
Dr. Sheryl Tecker, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources
Christeen Betz, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Hanson at 5:00 p.m.

2. Adjourn to Closed Session

3. Closed Session

Closed Session was called to order by President Hanson at 5:00 p.m.

a. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Personnel Matters [Government Code Sections 54954.5 (d), 54957]

b. Conference Labor Negotiators District Representatives: Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent, Employee Organization(s): California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #135/La Habra Education Association (LHEA) [Government Code Sections 54954.5 (f), 54957.6]

4. Second Call to Order

Second call to order was made by President Hanson at 6:00 p.m.

a. Welcome

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Elizabeth and Alexandria Bice led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Report from Closed Session

No report.

6. Action Item: Adoption of Agenda

Board President Hanson tabled items 13. a. Board Policy 0520.1 - Comprehensive and Targeted School Improved and 13.b. Approval of 2024-2025 School Year Calendar for further discussion and consideration:

Board of Trustees adopted the agenda of the regular meeting of December 14, 2023, as amended.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

7. Annual Organizational Meeting

President Hanson moved to the reorganization of the Board of Trustees.

a. Nomination of Board Members

Dr. Mario Carlos recognized Board President, Ofelia Hanson for her dedication and outstanding leadership to the school community. Dr. Carlos highlighted her hard work and commitment that Mrs. Hanson has provided as Board President and thanked her for her service.

The Board took action to elect officers.

1. Action Item: Nomination for Board President

President Hanson called for a nomination for the Office of President of the Board.

Motion made by: Adam Rogers

Motion seconded by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Voting:

Ofelia Hanson - Yes

Emily Pruitt - Yes

Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard - Yes

Adam Rogers - Yes

Justin Rodgers - Yes

Emily Pruitt was elected 5-0 for the position of President.

2. Action Item: Nomination for Board Clerk/Vice President

The newly elected President, Emily Pruitt, officially assumed her position as President to chair the meeting.

President Pruitt called for nominations for the Office of Clerk/Vice President.

Motion made by: Ofelia Hanson

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting:

Ofelia Hanson - Yes

Emily Pruitt - Yes

Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard - Yes

Adam Rogers - Yes

Justin Rodgers - Yes

Dr. Sue Pritchard was elected 5-0 for the position of Clerk/Vice President.

3. Action Item: Appointment of Superintendent as Board Secretary

President Pruitt motioned to appoint Dr. Mario Carlos as Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Motion made by: Emily Pruitt
Motion seconded by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard
Voting:
Ofelia Hanson - Yes
Emily Pruitt - Yes
Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard - Yes
Adam Rogers - Yes
Justin Rodgers - Yes

Dr. Mario Carlos was elected 5-0 for the position of Secretary.

b. Action Item: Designate Board Committee Representatives

President Pruitt lead a discussion on the Designated Board Committee Representatives.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard
Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers
Voting:
Ofelia Hanson - Yes
Emily Pruitt - Yes
Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard - Yes
Adam Rogers - Yes
Justin Rodgers - Yes

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Representatives
Justin Rogers
Dr. Sue Pritchard

Equity & Diversity Task Force Representatives
Adam Rogers
Emily Pruitt

LCAP Committee Representatives
Dr. Sue Pritchard
Ofelia Hanson

Personnel Commission Representatives
Dr. Sue Pritchard
Ofelia Hanson

Political Action/Nominating Representatives
Adam Rogers
Justin Rodgers

St. Jude Meeting Representatives
Ofelia Hanson
Justin Rodgers

Motion passed 5-0.

c. Action Item: Approval of 2024 Board Meeting Dates

Approved the Board Meeting dates for 2024.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting:

Ofelia Hanson - Yes

Emily Pruitt - Yes

Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard - Yes

Adam Rogers - Yes

Justin Rodgers - Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

d. Action Item: Adjourn to Regular Meeting

President Pruitt adjourned to the regular meeting.

8. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2023

Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2023.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

9. Correspondence: Clerk of the Board

None.

10. Public Interest

a. Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Performance

The VAPA team, under the leadership of Gerardo Carvajal, provided a comprehensive update to the Board. The discussion included insights into elementary art, encompassing student learning, teacher expectations, adherence to California Standards, and the overall significance of arts education.

Various student artworks were displayed during the presentation, showcasing a diverse range of age groups, mediums, and technical skills. The team also outlined the array of classes offered at Imperial Middle School (IMS), such as Digital Art, Intro to Art, Advanced Art, and Yearbook. Similar options are available to students at Washington Middle School (WMS), including Intro to Art, Advanced Art, and Yearbook.

Emphasizing community engagement as a key focus this year, the team shared successful partnerships, including collaboration with Starbucks. Local Starbucks locations now feature LHCS student artwork, with plans to expand to additional Starbucks locations later this year.

VAPA highlighted ongoing community engagements, including the annual District Art Show, participation in the Tamale Festival, and various school art shows throughout the year, providing students with opportunities to showcase their creative work.

Kimberly Johnson, a teacher at Imperial Middle School, received recognition as a recipient of the Orange County Music and Arts Award for her outstanding leadership and excellence in arts instruction.

b. El Cerrito Holiday Performance

Deanna Putnam, the principal of El Cerrito, introduced her kindergarten carolers. The carolers,

dressed in their holiday best, sang a variety of holiday songs, creating a festive atmosphere and spreading holiday cheer.

c. Retiree Recognition

Dr. Sheryl Tecker, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, expressed gratitude to all the staff members slated to retire in December 2023. Each staff member was invited to attend the Board Meeting.

December 2023 Retirees:

Cheryl Eubanks
Anita Vejar
Susana Gallego
Janie Nieto
June Gualano

Christeen Betz, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, recognized Mrs. Eubanks for her tireless efforts and the significant impact she made on the program. Mrs. Eubanks played a crucial role in securing grants and ensuring thousands of kids received nutritious lunches every day. Her commitment was evident in the positive changes witnessed, and her ability to navigate challenges with residence was admirable. The District expressed gratitude for Mrs. Eubanks' contributions.

11. Public Comment

Sonia Kneip expressed her sincere appreciation for CSEA, LHEA, and management. She emphasized their shared commitment to mutual interests and clarified her responsibility to provide transparency to the membership regarding updates to language by the teams. Sonia highlighted the ongoing struggle over salaries and her advocacy for fair wages for members while maintaining a healthy reserve. She expressed concerns about the growing gap in pay between classified and management staff each year. Sonia addressed the recent additions of assistant superintendent positions and other management-level roles over the past couple of years. She questioned the approach used to quantify salaries and highlighted the ever-growing gaps. Specifically, Sonia presented the responsibilities and starting salaries for Bus Drivers, Office Managers, and Instruction Assistants to illustrate the disparities. Sonia emphasized that the widening gaps pose a challenge to the Board's responsibility to maintain solvency.

Stephanie Arballo expressed her gratitude to the Board for their support, both as a parent and an employee. She announced that an agreement for an increase in the salary schedule would be presented to the Board at the January meeting. While acknowledging that it may not fully align with the members' preferences, she emphasized that it is a fiscally responsible decision at this time. Stephanie urged the Board to think creatively and outside the box in terms of fiscal responsibility. As a suggestion, she proposed the implementation of a salary cap for staff earning over \$180,000.

Karla Montgomery expressed her concerns about the gap between the growth and evolution of her job responsibilities over the past nine years and the lack of a salary increase to properly reflect her added responsibilities. She highlighted that when she started over nine years ago, her job was relatively simple. However, over time, her responsibilities have evolved significantly. She now finds herself needing to be meticulous with each IEP to ensure compliance. She went on to discuss the step-by-step process of filing an IEP and how it has changed over the years. She emphasized the increasing complexity of her role. Additionally, Karla noted that classified staff members share similar stories about how their job responsibilities have evolved, yet their salaries have not kept pace with these changes.

12. Action Items: CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the Consent Calendar.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting:

Ofelia Hanson - Abstain

Emily Pruitt - Vote Not Recorded

Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard - Vote Not Recorded

Adam Rogers - Vote Not Recorded

Justin Rodgers - Vote Not Recorded

Ofelia Hanson abstained due to a conflict of interest.

Motion passed 4-0.

a. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Contract Reports - Education Services/Special Education

2. Staff Development

3. University Agreements

4. Memberships

b. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. Contract Reports - Business Services

2. Expenditures Report

3. Field Contracts

4. Surplus

c. PERSONNEL SERVICES

1. Separations

2. New Hires

3. Change of Status

13. GENERAL MATTERS

a. Action Item: Second Reading of the New/Revised Board Policies

Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures was tabled for further consideration and discussion.

Trustees approved the second reading of new/revised Board Policies per California School Board

Association recommendation for: Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures, Board Policy 1313 - Civility, Board Policy 4040 Employee Use of Technology, Board Policy 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action, Board Policy 5131.8 - Mobile Communication Devices, Board Policy 6145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment, and Board Policy 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests as amended.

Motion made by: Ofelia Hanson

Motion seconded by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Voting:

Ofelia Hanson - Vote Not Recorded

Emily Pruitt - Vote Not Recorded

Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard - Vote Not Recorded

Adam Rogers - Vote Not Recorded

Justin Rodgers - Vote Not Recorded

Motion passed 5-0.

b. Action Item: Approve the 2024-2025 School Year Calendars

Item was tabled for further consideration and discussion.

14. INSTRUCTION AND PERSONNEL

a. Information Item: Selection of 6th-8th Grade Science Materials

Emily Flesher, Director of Special Programs and Assessments, along with members of the Science Adoption Committee, presented the proposal for the selection of STEMscopes as the 6th-8th grade science materials. The committee initiated the selection process in 2021, piloting materials from multiple publishers. They thoroughly reviewed feedback from the committee and evaluated which materials met the established criteria and standards. After a comprehensive evaluation process, the committee confidently and unanimously recommended STEMscopes. They highlighted the suitability of STEMscopes for hands-on labs, interactive digital tools, and the abundance of resources for teachers. The proposed selected materials will be on display at the District Office for parents to view.

15. BUSINESS MATTERS

a. Information Item: Presentation by Measure "O" Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) on 2023 Activities

John Dobson, Chair of the Measure "O" CBOC, along with John Greenlee, Coordinator of Greenlee Disclosure Consulting, provided an overview of the Measure "O" activities for Fiscal Year 2022-23. As of June 2023, the balance remaining is around 1.3 million. This past year, the largest amount of money spent went towards the purchase of new classroom furniture. Mr. Greenlee showcased images of several school sites, highlighting the new flex furniture, carpeting, modular and interactive desk configurations, as well as curtains. Exterior renovations were also featured, showcasing the completion of shade structures, amphitheater seating, and improvements to concrete and paving. The cafeteria at Imperial Middle School received a much-needed facelift with new cabinets, flooring, and painting. Additional upgrades across various facilities included restroom renovations, installation of new rooftop HVAC systems, and new flooring in the mechanics' garage. These comprehensive renovations collectively enhance the learning environment and facilities, contributing to the overall improvement of the educational experience.

b. Action Item: First Interim Report

Approved the First Interim Report.

Christeen Betz presented the First Interim report, explaining that state mandates require districts to file a certification of financial solvency twice a year. The District is required to report a positive certification, indicating the maintenance of fiscal solvency for the current and subsequent two fiscal years.

Mrs. Betz highlighted key points, including the K-12 Funding Model for 2023-24, major changes from the Adopted Budget to the First Interim, analysis of Budget Assumptions and Multi-Year Projection (MYP).

The presentation covered the 2023-24 Funding Model, noting that the Hold Harmless is no longer applicable. Funding is based on LCFF and COLA and is also influenced by the S&C factor, driven by Unduplicated Pupil Percentage (UPP), which increased to approximately \$7.7 million, representing a rise from 77% to 81%.

Mrs. Betz reviewed Budget Assumptions for 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26, addressing operational expenses such as Step & Column, STRS & PERS, and Special Education encroachment expenses. An evaluation of each year's revenues, operational expenses, and base revenue to operation cost was conducted.

In 2023-24, the district is not breaking even, and in 2024-25 and 2025-26, it is projected to enter deficit spending mode, with deficits of \$2.1 million, \$1.5 million, and \$2 million, respectively.

Mrs. Betz emphasized the serious ongoing deficit the state is facing, estimating a \$68 billion deficit over the three-year period from 2022-23 to 2024-25. She explained external factors affecting the budget problem, including increased borrowing costs, rising home mortgages, a significant decrease in California companies going public, and a severe revenue decline in 2022-23.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Justin Rodgers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

c. Action Item: Approve Range Increase for Nutrition Services

Approved the range increase for Nutrition Services.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

16. Board/Superintendent Comments

Board Member comments:

- Celebrated the successful Grand Opening of the Spyder Lab at Walnut, noting that LHCS D is the first District to introduce this type of lab for elementary students.
- Attended the CSBA Conference, gaining insights into challenges and successes faced by various districts across the state.
- Expressed gratitude to the Business Services for compiling information for the First Interim

Report.

- Applauded the Special Assembly at Las Lomas, featuring 3rd grader Dinah Corona, the writer of "I Believe In Me." Praised Dinah's confidence and presentation skills, highlighting the positive impact on her peers.
- Commended the El Cerrito Epic Showcase and expressed appreciation for the amazing Staff Appreciations throughout the District.
- Extended thanks to the outgoing president for her hard work and congratulated the incoming president and vice president, looking forward to the new year.
- Offered prayers for the family of Inez Garcia.
- Proudly acknowledged the recognition of daily attendance.
- Thanked the negotiation team and expressed appreciation to the HR division.
- Congratulated Tawnya Sievers of Las Positas Elementary for being nominated for the prestigious California League of Educators-Educator of the Year award.
- Highlighted the success of the Holiday Concert, describing it as amazing.
- Congratulations to Tawnya Sievers of Las Positas Elementary for being nominated for the prestigious California League of Educators, Educator of the Year award.
- The Holiday Concert was amazing!
- The incoming president expressed gratitude for the honor and opportunity to serve in her new role. Emphasized the commitment to fostering connections and building bridges to unite everyone within the organization. Recognized that the strength of the organization lies in the collaboration and partnership between its members. Affirmed the dedication to serving the community by championing equity and inclusivity, creating an environment that embraces diversity. Stressed the importance of providing every child, regardless of their background, with the opportunity to thrive. Encouraged a celebration of successes and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to a brighter and more prosperous future for the students.

Superintendent comments:

- Happy Holidays!

17. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Motion made by: Dr. Susan Kolberg-Pritchard

Motion seconded by: Adam Rogers

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Motion passed 5-0.

18. NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for January 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the District Education Board Room, 500 N. Walnut Street, La Habra, California.



Secretary